Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. As per the complaint, the interest of the State of Andhra Pradesh and its inhabitants have been and/or are likely to be, prejudicially affected by various acts of commission and omission of the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka such as unauthorised construction of the Almatti Dam, wrongful utilisation of waters of Tungabhadra river and from the Tungabhadra dam and violations of the award in the Bheema sub-basin. In the complaint, the State of Andhra Pradesh requested to constitute a water disputes tribunal under Section 4(1) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 for adjudication and decision of the dispute emerging from the letter of complaint.

(c) As per Section 3 of the ISRWD Act, 1956 the Central Government is required to form an opinion that water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, and thereafter within a period not exceeding one year from the date of receipt of request, is required to constitute a water dispute tribunal for adjudication of the water dispute.

New irrigation projects for Himachal Pradesh

91. SHRI ANIL SHAPMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new irrigation project for Himachal Pradesh has been formulated by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds sanctioned for the same;

(c) by when these projects are likely to be started; and

(d) if reply to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) A new medium irrigation project, namely, "Balh Valley (Left Bank) medium irrigation project" for Himachal Pradesh was conditionally accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources in its 75th meeting held on 18.12.2000. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 41.64 crore to provide ultimate irrigation

potential of 4.354 thousand hectare for irrigation facilities in Mandi District. However, the State Government of Himachal Pradesh have not included this project in the Tenth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 2002-03. Accordingly, there is no provision of any fund for this project.

Joint Meeting of Indus Waters Commission

92. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 88th joint meeting of the Indus Waters Commission was held in Islamabad on 30th January, 2003; and

(b) what matters were discussed in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The 88th Meeting of the Permanent Indus commission was held at Islamabad from 4th to 6th February, 2003 to discuss the issues related to the Baglihar Hydro Electric Plant being constructed by India on the Main Chenab River, in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Recharge of underground water source

93. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that underground water source is depleting alarmingly in the country;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to recharge the underground water source; and

(c) whether Government propose to enact a Legislation for the protection and maintenance of ground waters; if so, the details in this regard?